Claims

[c1] A data processing configuration, comprising:

a set of data processing subsystems, each subsystem including persistent storage suitable for containing boot configuration information;

a management module connected to each of the subsystems, wherein the management module includes management module persistent storage containing boot configuration information corresponding to at least one of the subsystems; and

wherein at least one of the subsystems includes boot code means configured to retrieve its boot configuration information from the management module persistent storage during a boot of the subsystem.

[c2] The configuration of claim 1, wherein the management module persistent storage includes a boot configuration table containing boot configuration settings corresponding to each of the subsystems in the configuration.

[c3] The configuration of claim 1, wherein the management module is configured to provide the boot configuration information as a set of boot configuration commands.

[c4] The configuration of claim 3, wherein the subsystem is configured to translate each of the boot configuration commands into a corresponding boot configuration bit address specific to the subsystem.

[c5] The configuration of claim 1, wherein each of the subsystems comprises a server blade having at least one processor and a system memory accessible to the processor.

[c6] The configuration of claim 4, further comprising a cabinet having a plurality of slots, wherein each of the subsystems occupies a corresponding slot, and wherein each of the subsystems share cabinet resources including system power supplies and cooling fans.

[c7] The configuration of claim 1, wherein the subsystem is further operable, upon determining that the management module is unavailable during a boot sequence, to retrieve boot configuration information from the subsystem"s

persistent storage.

[c8] The configuration of claim 1, further comprising a dedicated connection between the management module and a subsystem and operable for configuring the boot configuration settings in the subsystem independent of power supplied to the subsystem's processors.

[c9] A method of booting data processing subsystems in a data processing configuration, comprising:

responsive to a boot event, initiating a boot sequence for at least one of the data processing subsystems;

during the boot sequence, retrieving boot configuration information from a management module connected to each of the set of data processing subsystems; and

storing the retrieved information in local persistent memory of the data processing subsystem.

[c10] The method of claim 9, wherein retrieving the boot configuration information comprises retrieving the information from a boot configuration table in persistent storage of the management module containing boot configuration settings corresponding to each of the subsystems.

[c11] The method of claim 9, wherein the boot configuration information is retrieved as a set of boot configuration commands from the management module.

[c12] The method of claim 11, wherein retrieving the boot configuration information includes translating each of the boot configuration commands into a corresponding boot configuration bit address specific to the subsystem.

[c13] The method of claim 9, further comprising, upon determining that the management module is unavailable during a boot sequence, retrieving boot configuration information from the subsystem's persistent storage.

[c14] The method of claim 9, further comprising configuring the boot configuration settings in the subsystem independent of power supplied to the subsystem's processors using a dedicated connection between the management module and

the subsystem.

[c15] A computer program product comprising computer executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium for booting data processing subsystems in a data processing configuration, comprising:

computer code means for initiating a boot sequence on at least one of the data processing subsystems responsive to a boot event responsive to a boot event;

computer code means for retrieving boot configuration information for at least one of the data processing subsystems from a management module connected to each of the set of data processing subsystems; and

computer code means for storing the retrieved information in local persistent memory of the data processing subsystem.

[c16] The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the code means for retrieving the boot configuration information comprises code means for retrieving the information from a boot configuration table in persistent storage of the management module containing boot configuration settings corresponding to each of the subsystems.

[c17] The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the boot configuration information is retrieved using a set of boot configuration commands from the management module.

[c18] The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the code means for retrieving the boot configuration information includes code means for translating each of the boot configuration commands into a corresponding boot configuration bit address specific to the subsystem.

[c19] The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising code means for retrieving boot configuration information from the subsystem's persistent storage upon determining that the management module is unavailable during the boot sequence.

[c20] The computer program product of claim 15Figures, further comprising code means for configuring the boot configuration settings in the subsystem

independent of power supplied to the subsystem's processors using a dedicated connection between the management module and the subsystem.